Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

IVERSON, JOHN B. 1983. *Staurotypus triporcatus*.

Staurotypus triporcatus (Wiegmann) Three-keeled or Giant Musk Turtle

Terrapene triporcata Wiegmann, 1828:364. Type-locality "Rio Alvarado," Veracruz, Mexico. Holotype, Zoologisches Mus. Berlin 127, collected by Ferdinand Deppe (date unknown; not examined by author).

Staurotypus triporcatus Wagler, 1830:pl.5. First use of combination.

Kinosternon triporcatum: Gray, 1831:75.

Clemmys (Staurotypus) triporcatus: Fitzinger, 1835:125.

Claudius pictus Cope, 1872:26. Type-locality, "Vera Paz," refined to a tributary of the Rio Polochic, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala by Dunn and Stuart (1951:59). Holotype, Mus. Nat. Hist. Natur., Paris 1589 (missing), female, deposited by Firmin Bocourt on 3 September 1868 (not examined by author).

Staurotipus triporcatus Sumichrast 1882:34.

Staurotypus triporeatus Thatcher, 1963:347.

• CONTENT. *Staurotypus triporcatus* is a monotypic species.

• DEFINITION. Adults reach 40 cm carapace length. The carapace is strongly tricarinate throughout life, and is light to dark brown and often streaked or spotted with darker pigment. The vertebral scutes are usually longer than broad, and eleven pairs of marginal scutes are present. The plastron is small, with seven or eight scutes; its length less than 70% of carapace length. The posterior plastral lobe is narrow, triangular, lacks a hinge, and often has the anal scutes partially or completely fused; the anterior plastral lobe is rounded, has a weak transverse hinge, is much shorter than the posterior lobe, and only rarely has an intergular scute. A large entoplastron is present. The interabdominal scute length exceeds 19% of the plastral length. Large axillary and inguinal scutes are always present and in contact. The bridge length is 16.5–20% of the plastron length. The large head is boldly reticulated dorsally, has a beak that is not strongly hooked, and has jaws which are vertically streaked with yellow and brown or green. Two large mental barbels are present. The tail bears two rows of conical tubercles, and is longer in males than females. Males also have well developed clasping organs on the posterior surfaces of each crus and thigh.

• DESCRIPTIONS. General descriptions are in Siebenrock (1907), Pritchard (1979), and Smith and Smith (1980). Detailed anatomical descriptions include the skull (Baur, 1896; Feuer, 1970), cranial arteries and foramina (McDowell, 1961; Albrecht, 1967), choanal structure (Parsons, 1968), rostral pores (Winokur and Legler, 1974), penis (Zug, 1966), musk glands (Waagen, 1972), locomotor apparatus (Zug, 1971; Walker, 1973), retina (Heinemann, 1877; Hoffman, 1890), and karyotype (Bull et al., 1974; Moon, 1974; Killebrew, 1975; Sites et al., 1979).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Color photographs of the adult: Pritchard (1979). Black and white photographs of adults: Neill and Allen (1959; as *S. salvinii*), Alvarez del Toro (1973), Hausmann (1964), Holman (1964), and Pritchard (1979); juveniles in Pritchard (1979). Karyotype: Moon (1974), Bull et al. (1974), and Killebrew (1975). Drawings of adults: Wermuth and Mertens (1961), Casas Andreu (1967), and Smith and Smith (1980); of plastral sutures and scutes, Hutchison and Bramble (1981).

• DISTRIBUTION. *Staurotypus triporcatus* occurs throughout the lowlands of the western Caribbean from central Veracruz, Mexico, eastward through northern Guatemala, Belize, and extreme northwestern Honduras, but excluding the Yucatan Peninsula.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. General accounts: Hausmann (1964) and Alvarez del Toro (1973). Additional references: habitat (Stuart, 1950; Duellman, 1963); diet (Cope, 1865; Fischer, 1872); reproduction (Ewert, 1979, 1981); longevity (Bowler, 1977); habits in captivity (Fischer, 1872; Holman, 1964); righting reflex (Ashe, 1970; Ashe et al., 1975); parasites (Caballero y C. and Cerecero y D., 1961; Thatcher, 1963, 1966; Bravo-Hollis and Caballero Deloya, 1973); sounds (Cope, 1865; Gans and Maderson, 1973); hearing (Wever, 1978); blood (Frair, 1972, 1977, 1979); zoogeography (Stuart, 1957; Barrera, 1963; Lee, 1980) and evolution (Hutchison and Bramble, 1981).

• ETYMOLOGY. The specific name *triporcatus* is Latin, *tri* (triple) and *porcatus* (ridged), refering to the three carapacial keels.

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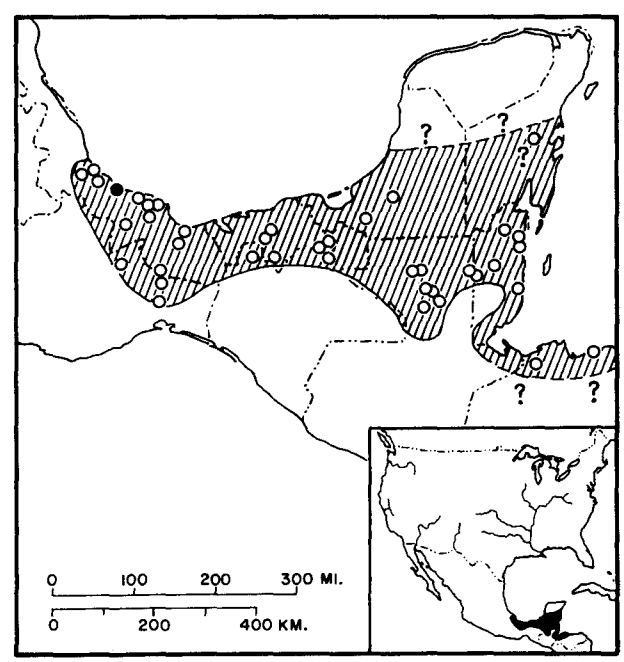

MAP. Solid circle marks type-locality; open circles indicate other localities. Question marks indicate uncertain range boundaries.

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